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ABSTRACT

As this report shows, the growth in the use of computers and other educational technologies has been substantial and accelerating during the past 15 years. The report summarizes Quality Education Data's 15th annual survey of public school ownership of instructional technology, covering more than 65% of all United States schools and districts--over 11,000 school districts and over 55,000 schools, representing more than 30 million U.S. K-12 students. Computers are used for a wide variety of administrative and instructional purposes, ranging from the management of student data to the delivery of technology-based instruction, and from the creation of student portfolios to the development of students' creative and critical thinking skills. Districts continue to support greater use of educational technologies by creating special hardware, software, and training plans and budgets. In the past, schools had their computers clustered in labs, but now they are placing their growing inventory of computers in the classroom and integrating their use into the K-12 curriculum. The result has been steady growth for all educational technologies, with dramatic increases in the number of districts and schools that own CD-ROM drives and videodisc players. After tracking the growing trend toward decentralized decision making in the past 3 years, new comparisons of the installed base of educational technologies by site-base managed schools are introduced. New to "Technology in Public Schools" this year are chapters on multimedia computers are online serivces. (AEF)

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